

2. (AMENDED) The composition of claim 1, wherein the organic surface modifier is ion dipole bonded on the inner platelet surface of the clay in an amount in the range of about 10% to about 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the surface modified clay.

23. (AMENDED) A method of deactivating an allergen and reducing the severity of an allergic reaction caused by contact of the allergen with human skin comprising applying to the skin of an individual, after exposure to said allergen, a composition comprising a smectite clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an organic surface modifier intercalant molecule that contains at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of aldehyde, ketone, carboxylic acid, alcohol, phenol, ether, catechol, lactam, lactone and pyrrolidone, said intercalant molecule being ion-dipole bonded on an inner platelet surface of the clay; said clay dispersed in a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

24. (AMENDED) A method of deactivating an allergen and reducing the severity of an allergic reaction caused by contact of the allergen with human skin comprising applying to the clothes of an individual, after exposure to said allergen, a composition comprising a smectite clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an organic surface modifier intercalant molecule to form a surface-modified clay, said intercalant molecule containing at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of aldehyde, ketone, carboxylic acid, alcohol, phenol, ether, catechol, lactam, lactone and pyrrolidone, said intercalant molecule being ion-dipole bonded on an inner platelet surface of the clay; said surface-modified clay dispersed in a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

25. (TWICE AMENDED) A urushiol sorbent comprising a smectite clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an organic surface modifier intercalant molecule to form a surface-modified clay, said intercalant molecule containing at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of aldehyde, ketone, carboxylic acid, alcohol, phenol, ether, catechol, lactam, lactone and

pyrrolidone, said intercalant molecule being ion-dipole bonded on a platelet surface of the clay, wherein the sorbent is in contact with a skin surface of an individual.

132 cat 26. (AMENDED) An allergen sorbent comprising a smectite clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an organic surface modifier intercalant molecule to form a surface-modified clay, said intercalant molecule being ion-dipole bonded on an inner platelet surface of the clay, wherein the organic surface modifier intercalant molecule contains a carbonyl moiety and an alkyl moiety having at least 6 carbon atoms and is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid, a ketone, an aldehyde, a lactone, a lactam, and a pyrrolidone.

ADD new claims 27-36 as follows:

133 27. (NEW) An allergen sorbent composition comprising a smectite clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an organic surface modifier intercalant molecule that contains at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of aldehyde, ketone, carboxylic acid, alcohol, phenol, ether, catechol, lactam, lactone and pyrrolidone, said intercalant molecule being ion-dipole bonded on an inner platelet surface of the clay to form a surface-modified clay; said surface-modified clay dispersed in a cosmetically acceptable carrier selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethanol, cyclomethicone, dimethicone, hexamethyldisiloxane, isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl myristate, glycerol and admixtures thereof.

28. (NEW) The composition of claim 27, wherein the organic surface modifier is ion dipole bonded on the inner platelet surface of the clay in an amount in the range of about 10% to about 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the surface modified clay.

29. (NEW) The composition of claim 27, wherein the organic surface modifier is an alkyl pyrrolidone, wherein the alkyl has at least 6 carbon atoms.

30. (NEW) The composition of claim 27, wherein the amount of surface modified clay dispersed in the cosmetically acceptable solvent is in the range of 1% to about 30% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

31. (NEW) The composition of claim 27, wherein the amount of surface modified clay dispersed in the cosmetically acceptable solvent is in the range of about 5% to about 15% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

32. (NEW) An allergen sorbent composition comprising a synthetic smectite clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an organic surface modifier intercalant molecule that contains at least one moiety selected from the group consisting of aldehyde, ketone, carboxylic acid, alcohol, phenol, ether, catechol, lactam, lactone and pyrrolidone, said intercalant molecule being ion-dipole bonded on an inner platelet surface of the clay to form a surface-modified clay; said surface-modified clay dispersed in a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

33. (NEW) An allergen sorbent comprising a smectite clay having a cation exchange capacity of at least 75 meq./100 grams of clay, intercalated with an alkyl pyrrolidone surface modifier intercalant molecule to form a surface-modified clay, said intercalant molecule containing a carbonyl moiety and an alkyl moiety having at least 6 carbon atoms and is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid, a ketone, an aldehyde, a lactone, a lactam, and a pyrrolidone.

34. (NEW) The allergen sorbent of claim 33 dispersed in a carrier to form an allergen sorbent composition, wherein the composition comprises 1% to about 30% by weight of the allergen sorbent and 99% to 70% by weight carrier.

35. (NEW) The composition of claim 34, wherein the allergen sorbent composition is in the form of a salve.

36. (NEW) The composition of claim 34, wherein the allergen sorbent composition is in the form of an aerosol spray.